

Congress: A Teaching Unit

An Honors Thesis ( HONRS 499 )

by

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Thesis Advisor

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan E. Schreiber".

Ball State University

Muncie, Indiana

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Senior Honors Thesis  
Barbara A. Gregory

Congress: A Teaching Unit

Purpose of Thesis

This unit begins with a compilation of researched information dealing with Congress. This information is formatted into a language easily understood by high school students. Such topics covered in this unit are the election of representatives to Congress, the organization of Congress, the duties of a legislator, and the process by which legislation is enacted. The information is followed by several enrichment activities. Some of these activities are designed to help the students develop a better understanding of Congress and the before mentioned topics, while other activities require the students to employ higher level thinking skills to this basic information. Some of these activities include writing a bill and enacting a mock Senate to see whether or not the bill becomes a law, and writing an actual letter of concern to a local Congressman. I have included some actual samples of student work in this area.

These enrichment activities vary greatly in their degrees of difficulty. While this makes the unit more practical for future use, it also serves its purpose presently. I am student teaching this Spring semester of 1995 in a high school government class. I employed portions of this unit in one general class and one remedial class. This is the source of my student work.

My supervising teacher reported this area of study as a problem area for her remedial classes in the past. Therefore, I feel as if this unit was very beneficial for the students. I have evaluated my success with this remedial class, in particular, by discussing the effects of the use of my developed unit with my supervising teacher. She thought that the content was presented most definitely in a very thorough, yet creative way. I have also noticed the positive results of this unit when evaluating a pre-test and a post-test that I administered to the students. There were definite areas of improvement. Overall, I enjoyed developing this unit. However, I enjoyed teaching this unit even more. These remedial students really need the type of "hands-on" activities provided for in this unit. I am very happy that I could provide such a wide array of activities for these students in a most important subject that I believe is sometimes neglected.

## **Behavioral Objectives**

After completing this unit students should be able to:

1. define basic vocabulary associated with Congress.
2. recall basic information about each legislative body of Congress dealing with such areas as size, qualifications, terms, elections, and the filling of vacancies.
3. compare and contrast the major differences between the House and the Senate.
4. explain how both Senators and Representatives are elected and the constituencies that they represent.
5. identify the powers granted to Congress by the Constitution of the United States of America.
6. identify the powers denied to Congress by the Constitution of the United States of America.
7. identify the power of Congress that would be used in order to deal with hypothetical situations Congress might face.
8. distinguish between expressed powers and implied powers granted to Congress.
9. analyze portions of the Constitution dealing with Congress in order to determine their relevance today.
10. explain the elastic clause and the effects it has on the powers of Congress.
11. explain the duties associated with Congressional leadership positions.
12. identify the names, political parties, and home states of current Congressional leaders.
13. explain how a state is divided into and represented by Congressional districts.
14. explain what gerrymandering is and how it is done.
15. identify the Congressional district in which he or she lives.
16. recall the names of the Senators from his or her state and the Representatives from his or her Congressional district.
17. construct Congressional districts based on a given map with hypothetical populations listed.

18. compare and contrast maps of various Congressional districts which have been affected by gerrymandering with those that have been apportioned fairly.
19. construct Congressional districts that are fair and equitable to all ethnic and racial groups based on a map supplying information in this area of ethnicity and race.
20. describe the various responsibilities of key committees in Congress.
21. analyze hypothetical situations confronted by Congress and decide which committee in Congress would handle the situation.
22. assign hypothetical bills to an appropriate House and Senate committee.
23. place the steps of the lawmaking process in correct chronological order.
24. analyze actual bills that originated in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
25. evaluate the possible positive and negative effects of a controversial bill dealing with the protection of the United States flag.
26. explain what lobbying is.
27. evaluate the tactics employed by various lobbyists.
28. analyze a political cartoon dealing with the power of lobbyists.
29. evaluate the arguments for and against term limits for members of Congress.
30. analyze a political cartoon dealing with Congressional term limits.
31. explain the power of incumbency in Congress by analyzing bar graphs dealing with this subject.
32. describe the demographics of Congress in relationship to the demographics of the United States population by analyzing pie graphs dealing with this subject.
33. create a hypothetical appointment book for a legislator displaying various duties involved in a day in the life of a Congressional Representative.
34. describe the role of financing in Congressional elections.

35. evaluate the level of ethical standards applied to members of Congress.

36. explain how Congress must deal with the powers of the executive branch by analyzing a political cartoon dealing with this subject.

37. evaluate several various proposals dealing with Congressional reforms aimed at making Congress operate more efficiently.

38. evaluate a sample letter written to a Senator.

39. write an actual letter of concern to the appropriate Representative or Senator.

40. write a bill that addresses a particular area of concern to the student.

41. evaluate the bills of other class members by enacting the role of a member of a particular committee.

42. evaluate revised bills coming out of committee by contributing arguments and considering the arguments of others in a simulated Congressional debate.

43. display a basic knowledge of Congress by successfully participating in a game of Congressional Bingo.

## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in \_\_\_\_\_ parts, called houses.
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Representatives in the House.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects \_\_\_\_\_ Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts \_\_\_\_\_ years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts \_\_\_\_\_ years.
7. Representatives must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
8. Senators must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The primary function of Congress is to
- A. carry out the laws
  - B. make laws
  - C. declare laws unconstitutional
  - D. veto laws
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?
- A. executive branch
  - B. judicial branch
  - C. local branch
  - D. legislative branch
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?
- A. Article 1
  - B. Article 2
  - C. Article 3
  - D. Article 4
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?
- A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?
- A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore

Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Both the Senate and the House can initiate money bills.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Congress has the sole power to declare war.

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. The "elastic clause" refers to the Congressional power to make all laws necessary to carry out the powers granted too Congress by the Constitution.

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_ 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Who are our Senators? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in B parts, called houses.
2. There are 5 Representatives in the House.
3. There are 2 Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects 2 Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 4 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts 4 years.
7. Representatives must be at least 30 years old.
8. Senators must be at least 30 years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- B 9. The primary function of Congress is to
- A. carry out the laws
  - B. make laws
  - C. declare laws unconstitutional
  - D. veto laws
- D 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?
- A. executive branch
  - B. judicial branch
  - C. local branch
  - D. legislative branch
- A 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?
- A. Article 1
  - B. Article 2
  - C. Article 3
  - D. Article 4
- A 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?
- A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore
- C 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?
- A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore



Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

T 14. Both the Senate and the House can initiate money bills.

T 15. Congress has the sole power to declare war.

T 16. The "elastic clause" refers to the Congressional power to make all laws necessary to carry out the powers granted too Congress by the Constitution.

T 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

F 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

T 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

F 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

T 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

F 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? Lynch Mob

24. Who are our Senators? M J G  
8-Ball

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? Proctor

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? SPICE T

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate? SCARFACE

T - / L

## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in 2 parts, called houses.
2. There are 100 Representatives in the House.
3. There are 36 Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects 2 Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 6 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts 2 years.
7. Representatives must be at least 25 years old.
8. Senators must be at least 30 years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- B 9. The primary function of Congress is to  
A. carry out the laws  
B. make laws  
C. declare laws unconstitutional  
D. veto laws
- D 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?  
A. executive branch  
B. judicial branch  
C. local branch  
D. legislative branch
- B 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?  
A. Article 1  
B. Article 2  
C. Article 3  
D. Article 4
- C 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?  
A. the President  
B. the Vice-President  
C. the Speaker of the House  
D. the President Pro Tempore
- A 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?  
A. the President  
B. the Vice-President  
C. the Speaker of the House  
D. the President Pro Tempore

Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

F 14. Both the Senate and the House can initiate money bills.

T 15. Congress has the sole power to declare war.

F 16. The "elastic clause" refers to the Congressional power to make all laws necessary to carry out the powers granted too Congress by the Constitution.

F 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

T 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

T 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

F 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

T 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

T 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? 80

24. Who are our Senators? Dick Lugar  
DAN Coats

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? Dave McIntosh

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? Newt Gingrich

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate?

Republicans

## The United States Congress:

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in 2 parts, called houses.
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Representatives in the House.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects 1 Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 2 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts 2 years.
7. Representatives must be at least 27 years old.
8. Senators must be at least 50 years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- B 9. The primary function of Congress is to
  - A. carry out the laws
  - B. make laws
  - C. declare laws unconstitutional
  - D. veto laws
- D 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?
  - A. executive branch
  - B. judicial branch
  - C. local branch
  - D. legislative branch
- C 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?
  - A. Article 1
  - B. Article 2
  - C. Article 3
  - D. Article 4
- C 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?
  - A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore
- C 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?
  - A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore

Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

F 14. Both the Senate and the House can initiate money bills.

T 15. Congress has the sole power to declare war.

T 16. The "elastic clause" refers to the Congressional power to make all laws necessary to carry out the powers granted too Congress by the Constitution.

F 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

F 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

T 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

F 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

T 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

F 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? East?

24. Who are our Senators? Richard Lugar  
Keith Macentosh.

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate? Senate?

## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in 3 parts, called house
2. There are 3 Representatives in the House.
3. There are 28 Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects 1 Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 28 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts 1 years.
7. Representatives must be at least 35 years old.
8. Senators must be at least 40 years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- A 9. The primary function of Congress is to
- A. carry out the laws
  - B. make laws
  - C. declare laws unconstitutional
  - D. veto laws
- D 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?
- A. executive branch
  - B. judicial branch
  - C. local branch
  - D. legislative branch
- C 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?
- A. Article 1
  - B. Article 2
  - C. Article 3
  - D. Article 4
- B 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?
- A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore
- A 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?
- A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore

Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

T 14. Both the Senate and the House can initiate money bills.

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T 16. The "elastic clause" refers to the Congressional power to make all laws necessary to carry out the powers granted too Congress by the Constitution.

F 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

F 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

T 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

T 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

F 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

T 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? 5

24. Who are our Senators? HOWARD

Ewing

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? SCARFAC

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? ICE CUB

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate?

\_\_\_\_\_

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## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in 3 parts, called houses.
2. There are 4 Representatives in the House.
3. There are 4 Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects 2 Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 2 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts 2 years.
7. Representatives must be at least 30 years old.
8. Senators must be at least 35 years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- B 9. The primary function of Congress is to
- A. carry out the laws
  - ☒ B. make laws
  - C. declare laws unconstitutional
  - D. veto laws
- D 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?
- A. executive branch
  - B. judicial branch
  - ☒ C. local branch
  - ☒ D. legislative branch
- B 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?
- A. Article 1
  - ☒ B. Article 2
  - C. Article 3
  - D. Article 4
- B 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?
- A. the President
  - ☒ B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore
- A 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?
- ☒ A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore



Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

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T 15. Congress has the sole power to declare war.

T 16. The "elastic clause" refers to the Congressional power to make all laws necessary to carry out the powers granted too Congress by the Constitution.

F 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

F 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

T 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

T 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

F 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

T 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Who are our Senators? David Macintosh

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? Newt Gingrich

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate?  
\_\_\_\_\_

True-False

## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in \_\_\_\_\_ parts, called house
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Representatives in the House.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects \_\_\_\_\_ Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 2 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts \_\_\_\_\_ years.
7. Representatives must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
8. Senators must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- A 9. The primary function of Congress is to  
A. carry out the laws  
B. make laws  
C. declare laws unconstitutional  
D. veto laws
- D 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?  
A. executive branch  
B. judicial branch  
C. local branch  
D. legislative branch
- C 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?  
A. Article 1  
B. Article 2  
C. Article 3  
D. Article 4
- C 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?  
A. the President  
B. the Vice-President  
C. the Speaker of the House  
D. the President Pro Tempore
- D 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?  
A. the President  
B. the Vice-President  
C. the Speaker of the House  
D. the President Pro Tempore

Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

T 14. Both the Senate and the House can initiate money bills.

F 15. Congress has the sole power to declare war..

T 16. The "elastic clause" refers to the Congressional power to make all laws necessary to carry out the powers granted too Congress by the Constitution.

F 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

T 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

F 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

T 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

F 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

T 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Who are our Senators? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in 2 parts, called houses.
2. There are 100 Representatives in the House.
3. There are 100 Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects 2 Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 6 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts 2 years.
7. Representatives must be at least 25 years old.
8. Senators must be at least 30 years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- D 9. The primary function of Congress is to  
A. carry out the laws  
B. make laws  
C. declare laws unconstitutional  
D. veto laws
- D 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?  
A. executive branch  
B. judicial branch  
C. local branch  
D. legislative branch
- C 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?  
A. Article 1  
B. Article 2  
C. Article 3  
D. Article 4
- C 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?  
A. the President  
B. the Vice-President  
C. the Speaker of the House  
D. the President Pro Tempore
- C 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?  
A. the President  
B. the Vice-President  
C. the Speaker of the House  
D. the President Pro Tempore

Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

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T 16. The "elastic clause" refers to the Congressional power to make all laws necessary to carry out the powers granted too Congress by the Constitution.

F 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

F 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

T 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

T 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

T 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

F 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? 4

24. Who are our Senators? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in 2 parts, called house
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Representatives in the House.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects \_\_\_\_\_ Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 4 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts 4 years.
7. Representatives must be at least 31 years old.
8. Senators must be at least 38 years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- B. 9. The primary function of Congress is to
- A. carry out the laws
  - B. make laws
  - C. declare laws unconstitutional
  - D. veto laws

- D. 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?

- A. executive branch
- B. judicial branch
- C. local branch
- D. legislative branch

- B. 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?
- A. Article 1
  - B. Article 2
  - C. Article 3
  - D. Article 4

- C. 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?
- A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore

- C. 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?
- A. the President
  - B. the Vice-President
  - C. the Speaker of the House
  - D. the President Pro Tempore

Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

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F 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

T 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

F 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Who are our Senators? Doc M. Hatch  
Richard Lugar

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? W. A. G. Gen.

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate?  
\_\_\_\_\_

71  
71

16

## The United States Congress

Fill in the missing numbers.

1. The Congress is divided in 3 parts, called houses.
2. There are 1 Representatives in the House.
3. There are 1 Senators in the Senate.
4. Each state elects 1 or 2 Senators.
5. The term of a Senator lasts 6 years.
6. The term of a Representative lasts 6 years.
7. Representatives must be at least 30 years old.
8. Senators must be at least 35 years old.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- B 9. The primary function of Congress is to  
A. carry out the laws  
B. make laws  
C. declare laws unconstitutional  
D. veto laws
- D 10. Which branch of our national government does Congress belong to?  
A. executive branch  
B. judicial branch  
C. local branch  
D. legislative branch
- D 11. Which article of the Constitution establishes Congress?  
A. Article 1  
B. Article 2  
C. Article 3  
D. Article 4
- B 12. Who is the leader of the Senate?  
A. the President  
B. the Vice-President  
C. the Speaker of the House  
D. the President Pro Tempore
- B 13. Who is the leader of the House of Representatives?  
A. the President  
B. the Vice-President  
C. the Speaker of the House  
D. the President Pro Tempore



Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

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F 17. Under certain circumstances, the House of Representatives can elect the President.

F 18. Only the Senate has standing committees.

T 19. The House and the Senate must both ratify a treaty negotiated by the President.

F 20. Every state has the same number of Representatives in Congress.

T 21. The House of Representatives is larger than the Senate.

T 22. Lobbyists have no impact upon Congress.

23. Which Congressional district do we live in? 18

24. Who are our Senators? McIntosh  
Coats

25. Who is our Representative to Congress? T. Thompson

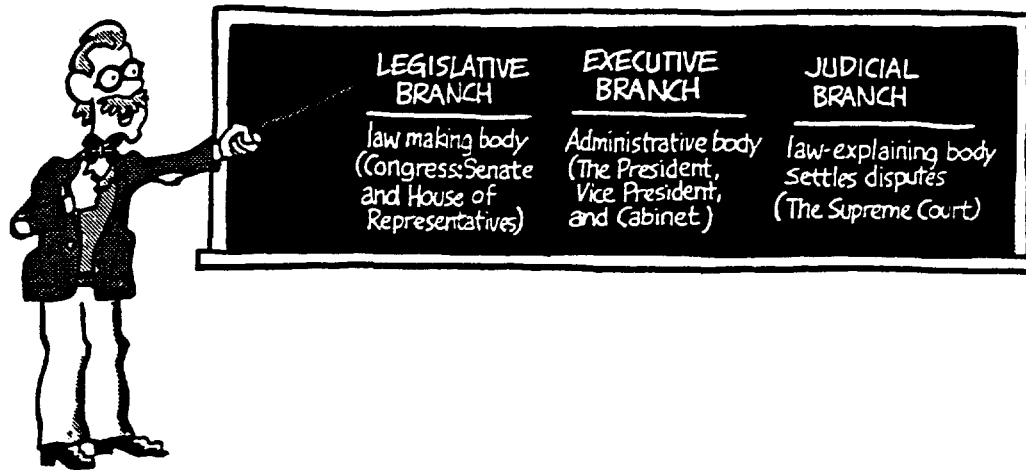
26. Who is the current Speaker of the House? T. Thompson

27. Which party currently holds the majority in both the House and the Senate?

M King

# Learn about the U.S. Government

The United States government has three branches:



This unit we are about to study focuses on the legislative branch of our national government of the United States of America. These three branches of government work together and share the power necessary to govern the United States. This legislative branch is composed of our lawmaking body called Congress. The basic job of Congress is to make the laws that govern our nation. Article I of the Constitution created Congress with the words, "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States." The founders indicated the importance they placed on the lawmaking power by making the article on Congress the first one in the Constitution.

Today Congress still plays a vital role in formulating policies for our nation. After completing this unit, you will better understand how these policies are made by Congress. We will cover the following topics:

- the organization and leadership of Congress
- the powers of Congress
- the committee system of Congress
- how a bill becomes a law
- the life of a congressman
- influences on Congress
- how to influence Congress yourself

## **CONGRESS VOCABULARY**

1. **Congress:** the lawmaking body of the national government
2. **Senate:** one of the two houses of Congress(100)
3. **House of Representatives:** the larger of the two houses of Congress whose membership is based upon population(435)
4. **Congressional Districts:** areas of a state with clearly defined boundaries and approximately equal populations
5. **Census:** a count of the number of people in the country
6. **Party Caucus:** a closed meeting of the members of a political party
7. **Majority Party:** the political party with the most members
8. **Minority Party:** the political party with the fewest number of members
9. **Speaker of the House:** leader of the majority party in Congress who is the most important and powerful member of Congress
10. **President pro tempore:** a leading member of the Senate, elected to preside when the President of the Senate is absent
11. **Floor Leaders:** guide their parties' bills through Congress and plan the order of daily business after consulting with the presiding officer of the House or Senate
12. **Party Whip:** the assistant to the party leaders in each house who try to persuade party members to vote as the party leaders wish
13. **Committee:** a group of Senators or Representatives that is organized to study and propose bills
14. **Standing Committee:** a permanent committee of Congress
15. **Subcommittees:** a small group formed from a committee of Congress to study parts of a bill or to conduct an investigation
16. **Select Committees:** special committees that conduct special investigations
17. **Joint Committees:** committees that include members from both the House and the Senate
18. **Conference Committee:** a joint committee that tries to work out differences in two similar versions of the same bill
19. **Constituents:** people represented by members of Congress

20. **Committee on Committees:** a group from each political party that names its respective members to serve on the various standing committees

21. **Seniority System:** a system in which the chair of a congressional committee is automatically given to the oldest member of the majority party serving on the committee

22. **Drafting a Bill:** putting an idea for a bill in writing

23. **Revenue:** money raised from taxes

24. **Revenue Bill:** any bill designed to raise money

25. **Pigeonholing:** the act of putting aside a bill that has been sent to a committee for study and recommendation

26. **Executive Session:** a private meeting of a Congressional committee not open to the public

27. **Appropriations Bill:** a bill that allows the government to use money it has received from taxes or other sources

28. **Filibuster:** non-stop talking in the Senate to prevent a bill from coming to a vote

29. **Cloture:** procedure used to end a floor debate in a legislative body

30. **Pocket Veto:** a method of killing a bill; this term is used if Congress has adjourned within ten days of submitting a bill and the President has not signed it

31. **Lobbyists:** representatives in Washington who are paid by an organized group to promote laws favoring their group

32. **Bill of Attainder:** a law that allows a person to be punished without having a trial

33. **Ex Post Facto Law:** a law that applies to an act that occurred before the law was passed

34. **Exports:** goods that are made in the United States and sent to other nations

35. **Imports:** goods coming into the United States from other nations

36. **Writ of Habeas Corpus:** a court order requiring that a person accused of a crime be brought before a judge

Definitions taken from:

Civics: Government and Citizenship, Prentice-Hall, 1990.

**CONGRESS**  
**EXTENDED VOCABULARY LIST**

Legislative Power  
Bicameral Legislature  
Sessions  
Apportionment  
Redistricting  
Gerrymandering  
Censure  
Incumbent  
Bill  
Calendars  
Quorum  
Committee of the Whole  
Filibuster  
Cloture  
Caucus  
Majority Leader  
Majority Whip  
Deputy Whips  
Minority Leader  
Minority Whips  
President Pro Tempore  
Standing Committee  
Subcommittee  
Select Committee  
Joint Committee  
Conference Committee  
Conferees/Managers  
Conference Report  
Seniority System  
Personal Staff  
Committee Staff  
Administrative Assistant  
Legislative Assistant  
Caseworkers  
Congressional Record  
Expressed Powers  
Enumerated Powers  
Revenue Bills  
Public Debt  
Bankruptcy  
Copyright  
Patent

Elastic Clause  
Implied Powers  
Impeachment  
Writ of Habeas Corpus  
Bill of Attainder  
Ex Post Facto Law  
Subpoena  
Immunity  
Contempt of Congress  
Legislative Oversight  
Legislative Veto  
Impounding  
Private Bills  
Public Bills  
Joint Resolutions  
Concurrent Resolutions  
Resolution  
Rider  
Hearings  
Markup Session  
Report  
Voice Vote  
Standing Vote  
Teller Vote  
Record Vote  
Roll Call Vote  
Veto  
Pocket Veto  
Constituents  
Lobbyists  
Lobbying  
Taxes  
Closed Rule  
"Christmas Tree" Bills  
Appropriation  
Appropriation Bills  
Authorization Bills  
Uncontrollable  
Entitlements  
Casework  
Pork Barrel Legislation  
Logrolling

## VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

1. Students can complete the Congressional Crossword Puzzle found on the next page.
2. Students can create their own crossword puzzles using their vocabulary lists. They can then exchange their puzzles with a neighbor to be completed.
3. Students can write a few paragraphs describing what they have learned about Congress. They should be required to use at least 20 to 25 of the vocabulary words on the vocabulary lists provided.
4. Students can close their books and put away their vocabulary lists and list all of the new words that they can think of that are associated with Congress. After they have brainstormed enough to compile a pretty thorough list, they should then put the words into categories and come up with a label for each of these categories. This activity is ideal for small group work. The groups could then share their lists and add any other words or categories that other groups came up with.
5. Students can create an "All About Congress" book. Each student could be assigned either a topic relating to Congress or a letter of the alphabet that their word or topic must begin with. Then each student develops a page for the book. They can define their topic, give an example of it, and illustrate it through pictures.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## ***Congressional Language***

**Objective** Here is a list of scrambled terms about Congress. Unscramble the words and write them on the lines.

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| A. nceuss _____       | F. eeenvur _____     |
| B. scuauc _____       | G. lpgineoheo _____  |
| C. nieuoctsttns _____ | H. riflbiuset _____  |
| D. tnesriyoi _____    | I. kpcote evot _____ |
| E. gftadrni _____     | J. txspero _____     |

**Objective** Write the letter of each word above on the line next to its definition.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. money raised from taxes
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. nonstop talk to delay a vote on a bill in the Senate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. closed meeting of party members
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. system of basing rewards on length of service
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. presidential method of rejecting a bill when Congress is not in session
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. when a committee sets aside a proposed bill
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. process of writing an idea for law
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. official count of the number of people in the United States
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. goods made in the United States and sold to other nations
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. people whom members of Congress represent

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## Congressional Language

**Objective** Here is a list of scrambled terms about Congress. Unscramble the words and write them on the lines.

- |                 |              |                |             |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| A. nceuss       | census       | F. eenvur      | revenue     |
| B. scuauc       | caucus       | G. lpgineoheo  | pigeonhole  |
| C. nieuoctsttns | constituents | H. riflbiuset  | filibuster  |
| D. tnesriyol    | seniority    | I. kpcote evot | pocket veto |
| E. gftadrni     | drafting     | J. txspero     | exports     |

**Objective** Write the letter of each word above on the line next to its definition.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <u>F</u> | 1. money raised from taxes   |
| <u>H</u> | 2. nonstop talk to delay a vote on a bill in the Senate                    |
| <u>B</u> | 3. closed meeting of party members   |
| <u>D</u> | 4. system of basing rewards on length of service                           |
| <u>I</u> | 5. presidential method of rejecting a bill when Congress is not in session |
| <u>G</u> | 6. when a committee sets aside a proposed bill                             |
| <u>E</u> | 7. process of writing an idea for law                                      |
| <u>A</u> | 8. official count of the number of people in the United States             |
| <u>J</u> | 9. goods made in the United States and sold to other nations               |
| <u>C</u> | 10. people whom members of Congress represent                              |



## "BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE"

Congress is a **bicameral** legislature. This means it is a legislature divided into two chambers or houses-the **Senate** and the **House of Representatives**. Although these houses have several differences between them, they do share some similarities. Most of these similarities occur when it comes to when Congress meets.

B.C.



### When Congress Meets:

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate meet for the same two-year term. Each term of Congress starts on January 3 of an odd numbered year. Therefore, the first Congress of the United States met in 1789. The term of the second Congress started two years later in 1791. Recently, the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress met in January of 1995.

Each term of Congress is divided into two regular sessions, or meetings. A session is one year long and includes breaks for holidays and vacations. Until about 1940, Congress would only stay in session for 4 or 5 months. Today, due to an increase in workload, a session of Congress often lasts from January until November or December.

Now let's take a look at the differences between the two houses.

### 1. SIZE

- Congress has a total of 535 members.
- The House of Representatives is the larger of the two houses.
- There are currently 435 members in the House of Representatives. The number of members, or seats, which a state is given is determined by its population. The larger a state's population the more seats it has in the House of Representatives. If a state's population increases or decreases, it will gain or lose seats. However, the Constitution guarantees every state at least one seat in the House. Today, six states have only one representative, while California has 45.
- The Senate is a much smaller house. There are two Senators from each state. Therefore, there are 100 Senators.

## 2. QUALIFICATIONS

- A Representative must be at least 25 years old. He or she must have been a United States citizen for at least 7 years. Also, the Representative must be a legal resident of the state from which he or she is elected.
- A Senator must be at least 30 years old. He or she must have been a United States citizen for at least nine years. The Senator must also be a legal resident of the state from which he or she is elected.

## 3. TERM

- Each Representative serves for a term-a period of 2 years. There is no limit to the number of terms a Representative may serve if he or she is reelected.
- Senators are elected for 6 year terms. The terms are staggered, however, so that one-third of the Senators are elected every two years. Because of the staggered terms, the Senate is sometimes referred to as a continuous body.

## 4. ELECTION

- Elections for members of the House are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of every even-numbered year. A member's term begins on January 3 following the November election.
- Before 1913, Senators were chosen by the state legislatures. In 1913, the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution was adopted. This amendment states that all Senators are to be elected by the voters in statewide elections. Senatorial elections occur in November of even-numbered years. Only one Senator is elected from a state at any one election, unless the other Senator has resigned, died or been expelled. Senators are sworn into office when Congress meets in January following the November election.

## 4. VACANCIES

- If a Representative dies, resigns, or is expelled from the House before his or her 2 year term is over, the governor of the state must call a special election to fill the vacancy or empty seat in the House.
- If the same situation occurs in the Senate, the governor of the state can do one of two things. The governor can either call a special election to fill the vacancy or make a temporary appointment until the next election. (In 1989, the governor of Indiana appointed Dan Coats to complete the term of Senator Dan Quayle, who became Vice-President of the nation.)

## Sources:

Civics: Government and Citizenship, Prentic-Hall, 1990.  
Government in the United States, Macmillan/M<sup>C</sup> Graw Hill, 1990.

## MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE

### HOUSE

Larger (435 members)  
Shorter Term Office (2)  
Younger Membership  
Less Flexible Rules  
Smaller Constituencies  
Power More Centralized  
Less Prestige  
Less Media Coverage  
Policy Specialists  
More Committees  
Acts More Quickly

### SENATE

Smaller (100 members)  
Longer Term Of Office (6)  
Older Membership  
More Flexible Rules  
Larger Constituencies  
Power Less Centralized  
More Prestige  
More Media Coverage  
Policy Generalists  
Fewer Committees  
Acts More Slowly

Source:

Government in the United States, Macmillan/M<sup>C</sup>Graw Hill, 1990.

## CONGRESS DATA BANK

Total number of members in Congress: \_\_\_\_\_

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### SENATE

Members

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications

Age:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Residency:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Term Length

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Our Congress today is the \_\_\_\_\_ Congress.

Our Congress is called \_\_\_\_\_ because it has 2 houses.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the smaller house of the two.

The number of representatives a state has in the House of  
Representatives is based upon \_\_\_\_\_.

## CONGRESS DATA BANK ANSWERS

Total number of members in Congress: 535

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### SENATE

Members	<u>435</u>	<u>100</u>
---------	------------	------------

### Qualifications

Age:	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>
------	-----------	-----------

Citizenship:	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
--------------	----------	----------

Residency:	<u>state elected</u>	<u>state elected</u>
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Term Length	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
-------------	----------	----------

Our Congress today is the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress.

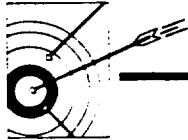
Our Congress is called bicameral because it has 2 houses.

The Senate is the smaller house of the two.

The number of representatives a state has in the House of Representatives is based upon population.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## Formulating Questions: The United States Congress

**Objective** Fill in the chart below about the House and Senate. Then answer the questions after the chart.

	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	SENATE
Total Number of Members		
Number of Members from each State		
Qualifications for Office		
Length of Term		
Salary		
Meeting Place		
Presiding Officer		
Special Powers (list two)		

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1. If you were to run for Congress, would you rather be a candidate for the House or Senate? Write two questions that would help you make your choice.

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2. What else would you like to know about the House or Senate? Write two questions that would help you find out.

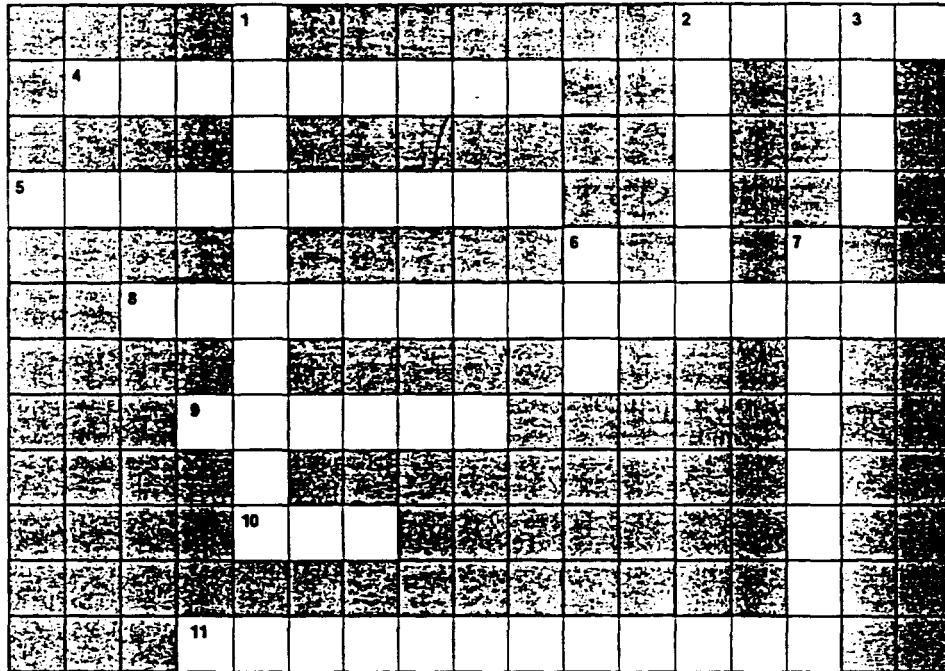
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**Congressional Crossword Puzzle**

Directions: Read the "across clues" and the "down clues." What word or words should be placed in each of the blanks? Write the correct word or words in the appropriate spaces on the crossword puzzle.

**ACROSS**

2. Sometimes district lines are gerrymandered or drawn to favor the \_\_\_\_\_ in power.
4. A two-house legislature such as the U.S. Congress is a \_\_\_\_\_ legislature.
5. The number of representatives each state has in the House of Representatives depends on its \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The redistribution of Congressional districts on the basis of their current population is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. An official count of the people is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. A representative serves for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
11. The \_\_\_\_\_, the people that members of Congress represent, are far more diverse than the members themselves.

**DOWN**

1. The United States Congress is modeled after the British \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In the case of *Reynolds v. Sims*, the Supreme Court ruled that "one \_\_\_\_\_" should have "one vote."
3. Every time a newly elected house convenes for the first time, a new \_\_\_\_\_ begins.
6. A senator serves for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
7. The yearly meetings of Congress are called \_\_\_\_\_.

				P								P	A	R	T	Y	
		B	I	C	A	M	E	R	A	L			E				
				R								R			R		
P	O	P	U	L	A	T	I	O	N			S			M		
				I							S		O		S		
			R	E	A	P	P	O	R	T	I	O	N	M	E	N	T
				M							X				S		
				C	E	N	S	U	S						S		
				N											I		
				T	W	O									O		
															N		
				C	O	N	S	T	I	T	U	E	N	T	S		



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## *The Congress*

**Objective** Read each pair of statements below. Only one statement in each pair is true. On the line provided, place a check next to the true statement.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. All members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are at least 25 years old.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. All members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate serve six-year terms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Vice President serves as president of the Senate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Members of the Senate are chosen by their state legislatures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. There are 435 members in the House of Representatives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Each state has the same number of members in the House of Representatives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The political party with the most members in a house of Congress is called the party at large.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The minority party is the political party with the fewest members in a house of Congress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. An appointed group of members of the House or Senate that conducts special investigations on topics such as energy is called a select committee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A standing committee is an appointed group of members of the House or Senate that conducts special investigations on topics such as gun control.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Chairpersons of congressional committees are chosen by members of that committee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Party leaders greatly influence who is appointed to certain congressional committees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. One of the steps in how a bill becomes law is "approval of the Supreme Court."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Committee consideration of a bill is one of the steps in how a bill becomes law.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Lobbyists are paid representatives of special interest groups who provide information and try to persuade members of Congress to vote for or against certain bills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Paid representatives of special interest groups who provide information and try to persuade members of Congress to vote for or against certain bills are called whips.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## The Congress

**Objective** Read each pair of statements below. Only one statement in each pair is true. On the line provided, place a check next to the true statement.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. All members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are at least 25 years old.
- X   2. All members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate serve six-year terms.
- X   1. The Vice President serves as president of the Senate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Members of the Senate are chosen by their state legislatures.
- X   1. There are 435 members in the House of Representatives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Each state has the same number of members in the House of Representatives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The political party with the most members in a house of Congress is called the party at large.
- X   2. The minority party is the political party with the fewest members in a house of Congress.
- X   1. An appointed group of members of the House or Senate that conducts special investigations on topics such as energy is called a select committee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A standing committee is an appointed group of members of the House or Senate that conducts special investigations on topics such as gun control.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Chairpersons of congressional committees are chosen by members of that committee.
- X   2. Party leaders greatly influence who is appointed to certain congressional committees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. One of the steps in how a bill becomes law is "approval of the Supreme Court."
- X   2. Committee consideration of a bill is one of the steps in how a bill becomes law.
- X   1. Lobbyists are paid representatives of special interest groups who provide information and try to persuade members of Congress to vote for or against certain bills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Paid representatives of special interest groups who provide information and try to persuade members of Congress to vote for or against certain bills are called whips.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

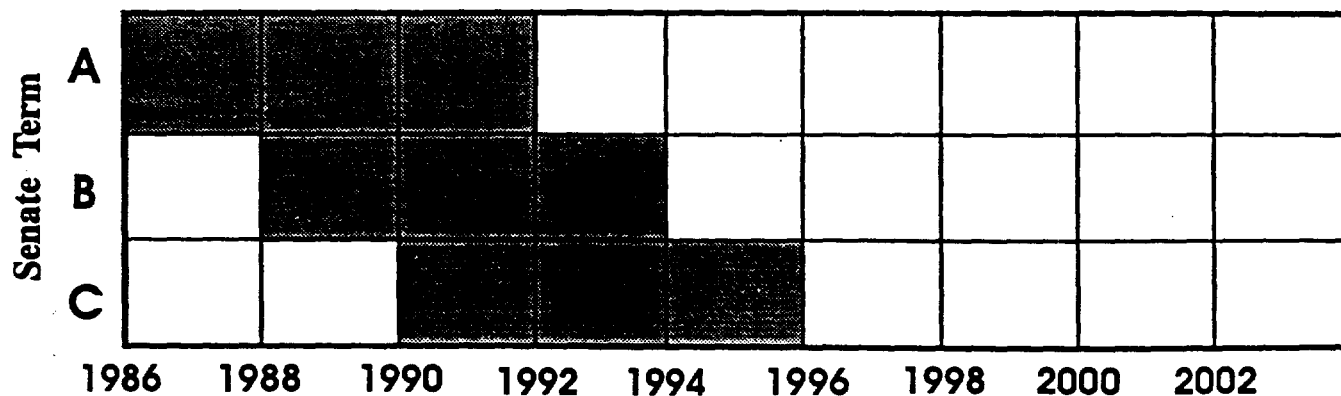
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Electing Senators

In each box write one election rule from the Constitution for a United States senator.

<b>Age</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
<b>Residence</b>	<b>Term</b>

1. How many United States senators does your state have? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many U.S. senators are there in all? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Unlike congressmen, senators do not all end their terms at the same time. Every two years, about one-third of the senate terms end. One year 34 senate terms end. How many end in each of the other two years? \_\_\_\_\_
4. A congressman represents one district in a state. How much of the state is represented by a senator? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The graph shows how the terms of senators are staggered. Add to the bars to show when the next election will be for each.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

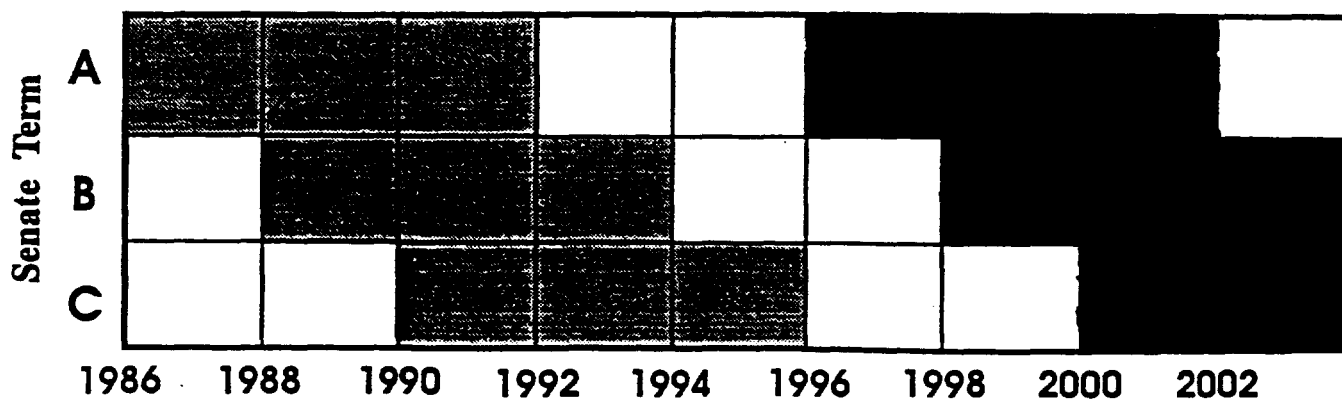
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# Electing Senators

In each box write one election rule from the Constitution for a United States senator.

<p><b>Age</b></p> <p>30</p>	<p><b>Citizenship</b></p> <p>9 years</p>
<p><b>Residence</b></p> <p>state elected</p>	<p><b>Term</b></p> <p>6 years</p>

- How many United States senators does your state have? 2
- How many U.S. senators are there in all? 100
- Unlike congressmen, senators do not all end their terms at the same time. Every two years, about one-third of the senate terms end. One year 34 senate terms end. How many end in each of the other two years? 33
- A congressman represents one district in a state. How much of the state is represented by a senator? the entire state
- The graph shows how the terms of senators are staggered. Add to the bars to show when the next election will be for each.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Electing Representatives

In each box, write one election rule from the Constitution for a member of the House of Representatives.

<b>Age</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
<b>Residence</b>	<b>Term</b>

1. The number of representatives a state has is based on its population. What is the population of your state? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many representatives does your state have? \_\_\_\_\_
3. About how many people does each representative represent? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If your state is large enough to have more than one representative it is divided into numbered areas, or congressional districts. One representative represents each congressional district. If your state is like this, what is the number of the district in which you live? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Electing Representatives

In each box, write one election rule from the Constitution for a member of the House of Representatives.

<b>Age</b>  <b>25</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>  <b>7 years</b>
<b>Residence</b>  <b>state elected</b>	<b>Term</b>  <b>2 years</b>

1. The number of representatives a state has is based on its population. What is the population of your state? 5,713,000 (1993)
2. How many representatives does your state have? 10
3. About how many people does each representative represent? 570,000
4. If your state is large enough to have more than one representative it is divided into numbered areas, or congressional districts. One representative represents each congressional district. If your state is like this, what is the number of the district in which you live? 2

## WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

The Constitution gives Congress its powers.  
Here is a list of what Congress **CAN** do...

1. set federal taxes
2. spend money for the country's defense and for the general welfare of the people
3. borrow money and pay the federal government's debts
4. make laws about trade
5. make laws about how a person may become a citizen of the United States
6. make laws about bankruptcy
7. print or coin money and say how much it is worth
8. set up standards for weighing and measuring
9. make laws to punish counterfeiters
10. set up post offices
11. have roads built
12. give people patents and copyrights
13. set up courts that are lower than the Supreme Court
14. make laws to punish crimes committed on U.S. ships on the high seas and crimes against international law
15. declare war
16. organize the armed forces, make rules for them, and pay them
17. make laws to help set up the state militia, or National Guard and can call on the militia to enforce the country's laws
18. make laws for the District of Columbia
19. admit new states to the union
20. make all laws that are "necessary and proper" to carry out the powers listed above

The powers mentioned in numbers 1 through 19 are called expressed powers because they are written out in the Constitution. Other powers that come out of this "necessary and proper" clause or the elastic clause are called implied powers.

## WHAT CAN'T CONGRESS DO?

There are also certain powers that Congress **cannot** perform. These powers include the following...

1. Except in times of rebellion or invasion, Congress cannot take away from a person in prison the right to demand a **writ of habeas corpus**. This is a court order that requires a prisoner to be brought before a court. The court then decides if there are grounds for continuing to hold the prisoner for trial.
2. Congress cannot pass **bills of attainder**. These are laws that punish people for crimes without first giving them a trial.
3. Congress cannot pass **ex post facto laws**. These are laws that punish people for doing something that was not against the law when the person did it.
4. Congress cannot tax exports, or goods, that are shipped out of the country.
5. Congress cannot make laws about trade that favor one state over another.
6. Congress cannot take any money from the federal treasury without passing a law to do so.
7. Congress cannot give anyone a title of nobility, such as king, queen, lord, noble, prince, or princess.
8. Congress cannot make any law that violates the Bill of Rights or any other part of the Constitution.
9. Congress cannot pass laws on matters not covered by the Constitution. The Constitution states that if power is not granted to the United States, it is reserved for the states or for the people.



## THE CONSTITUTION AND CONGRESSIONAL POWERS

In order to complete this activity you will need a copy of the Constitution of the United States of America. This document can be found in the back of your textbook.

1. Find Article I. Section 1 of this article grants all **legislative powers** to Congress. Why do you think that the founders of our nation placed this section first?
2. Which section lists the expressed powers of Congress?
3. Notice the last statement in this section which gives Congress the power to make laws that are "necessary and proper". This gives Congress its implied powers. Why do you think that this clause is commonly referred to as the "elastic clause"?
4. Which section lists the powers denied to Congress?
5. List some powers that you think the founders should have included in the expressed powers list that they did not include.
6. List some powers that you think the founders should not have included in the expressed powers list that they did include.
7. Do you think that the elastic clause is sometimes abused by Congress? If so, how?
8. Even though this Constitution was written over 200 years ago, do you think that it still accurately describes the role the legislative branch should play in our national government? Explain your answer.

**Congressional Powers**

*The Constitution gives Congress certain powers.*

Directions: The left-hand column lists some of the powers that the Constitution gives Congress. The right-hand column list some situations in which Congress could exercise its powers. In the spaces next to the numbers, write the letters of the situations that match the powers. Six of the letters will not be used.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ 1. to lay and collect taxes                    | a. Some citizens want Puerto Rico to become the 51st state.     |
| _____ 2. to borrow money                             | b. A foreign power goes to war with the United States.          |
| _____ 3. to regulate interstate commerce             | c. Washington, D.C., passes a segregation law.                  |
| _____ 4. to establish rules for becoming a citizen   | d. Many Americans think income tax laws are unfair.             |
| _____ 5. to coin money                               | e. The Vice-President is found guilty of accepting bribes.      |
| _____ 6. to punish counterfeiting                    | f. The President wants more Polaris submarines.                 |
| _____ 7. to establish post offices                   | g. Transcontinental truckers oppose the 55 m.p.h. speed limit   |
| _____ 8. to promote science and useful arts          | h. The President decides to sign an arms control agreement.     |
| _____ 9. to set up additional courts                 | i. The President asks Congress to increase the national debt.   |
| _____ 10. to punish crimes on the high seas          | j. A riot breaks out in Illinois that the state can't handle.   |
| _____ 11. to declare war                             | k. The National Guard mistakenly kills Illinois rioters.        |
| _____ 12. to raise and support armies                | l. More mail clerks are needed in some rural areas.             |
| _____ 13. to provide and maintain a navy             | m. Some Americans think citizenship tests are too easy.         |
| _____ 14. to make rules for the armed forces         | n. Some businessmen are abusing bankruptcy laws.                |
| _____ 15. to call out the National Guard             | o. The average lawsuit takes five years to settle.              |
| _____ 16. to organize, arm, and discipline the Guard | p. Collectors want a new commemorative silver dollar.           |
| _____ 17. to govern the District of Columbia         | q. A presidential Cabinet choice is a known racist.             |
|  | r. Charges of prejudice surface against army officers.          |
|  | s. Terrorists hijack an American tourist ship in the Caribbean. |
|  | t. Pirated tapes are hurting the American recording industry.   |
|  | u. A three dollar bill begins to circulate at racetracks.       |
|  | v. No presidential candidate receives an electoral majority.    |
|  | w. The army needs a draft to match Soviet military strength.    |

**ANSWERS**

1. d
2. i
3. g
4. m
5. p
6. u
7. l
8. t
9. o
10. s
11. b
12. w
13. f
14. r
15. j
16. k
17. c

**The Powers of Congress**

*The Constitution gives Congress certain powers.*

Directions: Listed below are actions that Congress might take. In the blank space provided, write *EP* if the action is an expressed power, *IP* if it is an implied power, and *D* if it is a power denied Congress by the Constitution.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. raise the national debt
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. ratify a treaty
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. establish a peacetime draft
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. impeach a member of the Cabinet
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. establish immigration limits
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. create a Department of Consumer Protection
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. elect the President of the United States if no candidate receives a majority of electoral college votes
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. declare war
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. sentence a person to death for treason
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. admit a new state into the Union
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. levy a tax on exported tobacco
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. refuse to approve a Supreme Court nominee
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. raise taxes
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. use federal funds to build highways
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. create a minimum wage
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. propose an amendment to the Constitution
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. declare a winner in a contested congressional election
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. suspend habeas corpus because of civil unrest

## ANSWERS

1. IP
2. EP
3. IP
4. EP
5. EP
6. IP
7. EP
8. EP
9. D
10. EP
11. D
12. EP
13. EP
14. IP
15. IP
16. EP
17. EP
18. D

**Constitutional Amendments**

*The Constitution describes Congress.*

Directions: Read the following constitutional passages that describe Congress. Then read the Thirteenth through the Twentieth Amendments in Chapter 1 of your textbook. In the spaces provided below, write the number of the amendment or amendments that changed the passage and explain the change.

1. Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons.

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2. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote.

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3. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

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4. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

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## **ANSWERS**

1. The Thirteenth Amendment eliminated slavery in the United States or in any lands under its control. No one may be forced to work unless a court has set that as punishment for committing a crime. The Fourteenth Amendment canceled the three-fifths clause.
2. The Seventeenth Amendment changed the method of selecting senators to election by the people of each state, not by the state legislatures.
3. The Seventeenth Amendment provided that "when vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the Senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies..."
4. The Twentieth Amendment set January 3 as the regular meeting date.

# Stretching the Constitution

*The elastic clause is the basis of the implied powers.*

Directions: Listed below are the definitions of 12 terms relating to the informal powers of Congress. Place each term defined in the appropriate spaces in the puzzle that follows.

1. one of the parties in the suit challenging the constitutionality of a national bank
2. word in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 emphasized by broad constructionists
3. leader of the Democratic-Republicans who favored strict construction
4. word in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 emphasized by strict constructionists
5. the clause in the Constitution that has allowed Congress to "stretch" its powers.
6. the opposite of rigidity; one of the characteristics of the American political system
7. one of the implied powers of Congress that led to disclosures about Watergate
8. the court that determines whether an act of Congress is constitutional
9. powers on which implied powers are based
10. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 is the basis of these kinds of powers
11. leader of the Federalists who favored broad construction
12. another word meaning interpretation

1.	_____	C	_____
2.	_____	O	_____
3.	_____	N	_____
4.	_____	S	_____
5.	_____	T	_____
6.	_____	I	_____
7.	_____	T	_____
8.	_____	U	_____
9.	_____	T	_____
10.	_____	I	_____
11.	_____	O	_____
12.	_____	N	_____



## ANSWERS

1. M C C U L L O C H
2. P R O P E R
3. J E F F E R S O N
4. N E C E S S A R Y
5. E L A S T I C
6. F L E X I B I L I T Y
7. I N V E S T I G A T I O N
8. S U P R E M E
9. D E L E G A T E D
10. I M P L I E D
11. H A M I L T O N
12. C O N S T R U C T I O N

**The Battle over the Bank**

*The elastic clause is the basis of the implied powers.*

Directions: In the battle over the establishment of a national bank, President George Washington asked his Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson and his Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton to submit their views on the plan. Jefferson gave a strict constructionist view, and Hamilton gave a broad constructionist view. The opinions of both men played an important role in defining the elastic clause as the basis of the implied powers of Congress. Read the following excerpts from the two opinions. On the line after the excerpts, identify the point of view as strict or broad. Then identify the author of the opinion as Jefferson or Hamilton.

... Necessary often means no more than needful, requisite, incidental, useful, or conducive to . . . And it is the true one in which it is to be understood as used in the Constitution. The whole turn of the clause containing it [the elastic clause] indicates, that it was the intent of the Convention, by that clause, to give a liberal attitude to the exercise of the specified powers.

... The powers contained in a constitution of government, especially those which concern the general administration of the affairs of a country, its finances, trade, defense etc., ought to be construed liberally in advancement of the public good. . . .

A hope is entertained that it has, by this time, been made to appear, to the satisfaction of the President, that . . . the bill under consideration . . . brings the case within the provision of the clause of the Constitution . . .

Documents of American History, Ninth Edition, Volume 1, pp. 157-158

1. \_\_\_\_\_

I consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid on this ground—that all powers not delegated to the United States, by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, or to the people (10th amend): To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specifically drawn around the powers of Congress, is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible of any definition.

The incorporation of a bank, and the powers assumed by this bill, have not, in my opinion, been delegated to the United States by the Constitution.

... The Constitution allows only the means which are 'necessary', not those which are merely 'convenient', for effecting the enumerated powers. If such a latitude of construction be allowed to this phrase as to give any non-enumerated power, it will go to every one; for there is no one which ingenuity may not torture into a convenience, in some way or other. . . .

Can it be thought that the Constitution intended that, for a shade or two of convenience, more or less, Congress should be authorized to break down the most ancient and fundamental laws of the several states[?] . . .

Documents of American History, Ninth Edition, Volume 1, pp. 159-160

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## **ANSWERS**

1. broad-Hamilton

2. strict-Jefferson

## CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

**Directions:** In the space below write a brief description of the duties of each of the following congressional leaders.

### The House of Representatives

1. Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Majority Leader: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Majority Whip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Minority Leader: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Minority Whip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### The Senate

6. President: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. President Pro Tempore: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Majority Leader: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Majority Whip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Minority Leader: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Minority Whip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Answers**

### **House**

1. Speaker: rules on points of order, recognizes members who wish to speak, decides outcome of voice votes, refers bills to committee, can vote and take part in debates
2. Majority Leader: principal spokesperson of majority party, helps speaker plan party legislative program
3. Majority Whip: assists the leaders of the majority party and makes sure that members get to the floor for critical debates and votes
4. Minority Leader: principal spokesperson of the minority party
5. Minority Whip: assists the leaders of the minority party and makes sure that members get to the floor for critical debates and votes

### **Senate**

6. President: Vice-President, presides over Senate, cannot debate, can only vote in case of a tie
7. President Pro Tempore: Presides in the absence of the Vice-President
8. Majority Leader: principal spokesperson of the majority party, plans its legislative program
9. Majority Whip: assists the leaders of the majority party and makes sure that members get to the floor for critical debates and votes
10. Minority Leader: principal spokesperson of the minority party
11. Minority Whip: assists the leaders of the minority party and makes sure that members get to the floor for critical debates and votes

## CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

**Directions:** Write the names, political parties, and home states of the congressional leaders listed below. Some sources to check for this information include The Congressional Directory or The World Almanac. These sources can be most likely found at the reference desk of your library.

### U. S. Congress

#### Senate

##### President of the Senate

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#### House of Representatives

##### Speaker of the House

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##### President Pro Tempore

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##### Majority Leader

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##### Minority Leader

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##### Majority Leader

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##### Minority Leader

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##### Majority Whip

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##### Minority Whip

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##### Majority Whip

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##### Minority Whip

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## **ANSWERS**

### **Senate**

Vice-President Al Gore(D)-TN.

Strom Thurmond(R)-S.C.

Robert Dole(R)-KS.  
Thomas Daschle(R)-S.D.

Judd Gregg(R)-N.H.  
Wendell Ford(D)-KY.

### **House**

Newt Gingrich(R)-GA.

Richard Armey(R)-TX.  
Richard Gephardt(D)-MO.

Tom DeLay(R)-TX.  
David Bonior(D)-MI.

the court ruled the Constitution clearly intended that a vote in one congressional district was to be worth as much as a vote in another district. This principle has come to be known as the "one person, one vote" rule. This rule requires all congressional districts to be nearly equal in population. As a result, today each congressional district contains about 500,000 people. These people in a congressional district that a member of the House is representing are called constituents.

### DISTRICTING BY GERRYMANDERING

The second way legislatures have abused their power to divide the state into congressional districts is by **gerrymandering**. Gerrymandering means that the political party which has the majority in a state legislature draws a district's boundaries so as to gain an advantage in elections. Gerrymandering often results in very irregularly shaped election districts. Gerrymandering takes its name from Elbridge Gerry, an early governor of Massachusetts, who was one of the first to engage in the practice. A cartoonist, seeing a map of the oddly shaped new districts, drew a cartoon of them in the shape of a salamander, which was renamed a "gerrymander" by his editor.

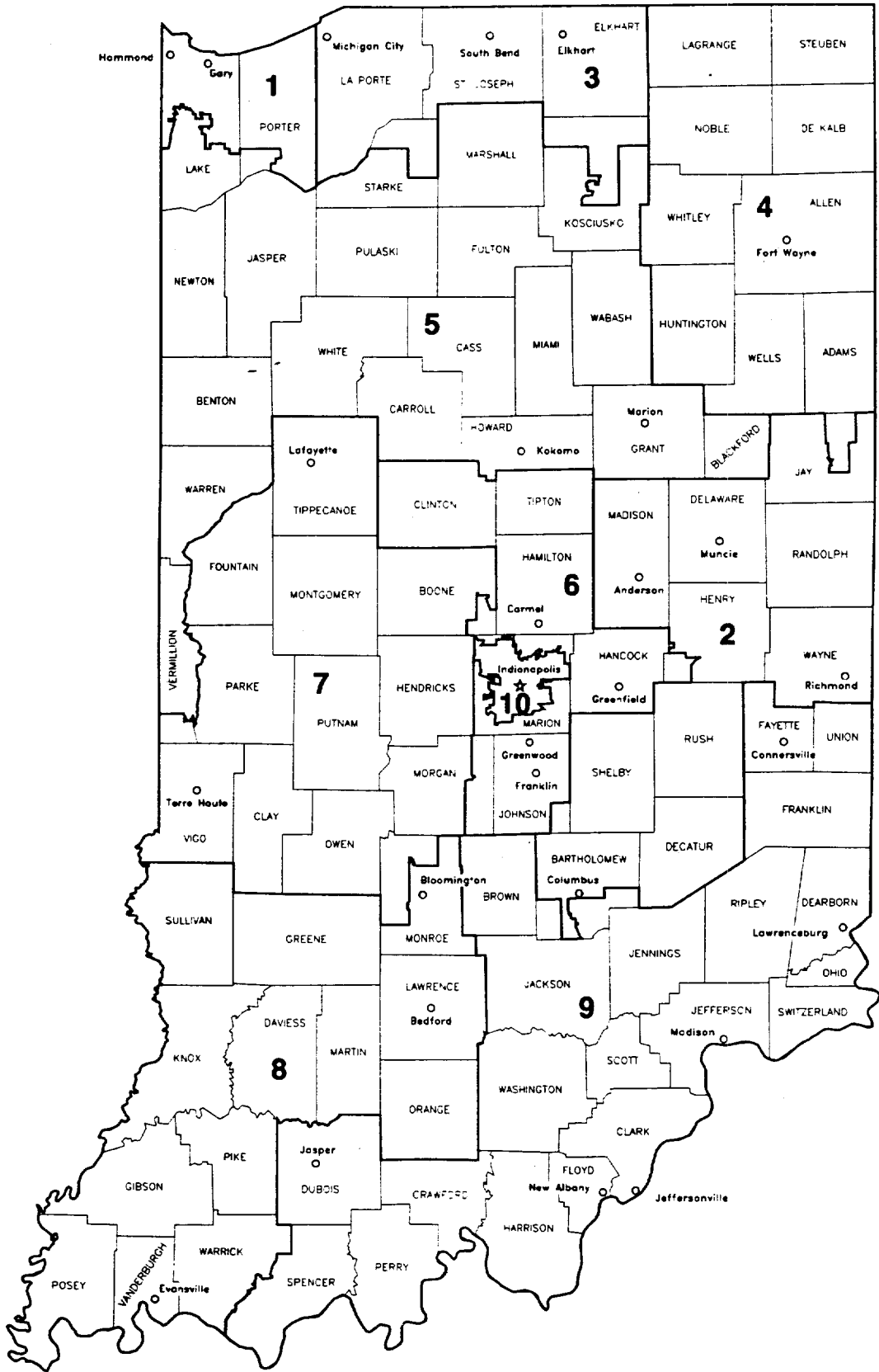
There are basically two ways to gerrymander. They are called "packing" and "cracking" by politicians. "Packing" a district means drawing the lines of a congressional district so they include as many of your political party's voters as possible. The idea is to make the district "safe" for the election of your party's candidate. "Cracking" means dividing the opponent's strength among two or more districts. This makes it difficult for your opponent to get enough votes to win election.

Gerrymandering continues as a practice in American politics today but with much reduced frequency. The Supreme Court has ruled that congressional districts must be "compact" and "contiguous"-that is, physically adjoining. This requirement, plus the one person-one vote ruling, has cut down on the worst examples of gerrymandering.



# INDIANA

Districts Established June 13, 1991



## **The 104th Congress**

**House:** Republicans-230  
Democrats-204  
Independent-1

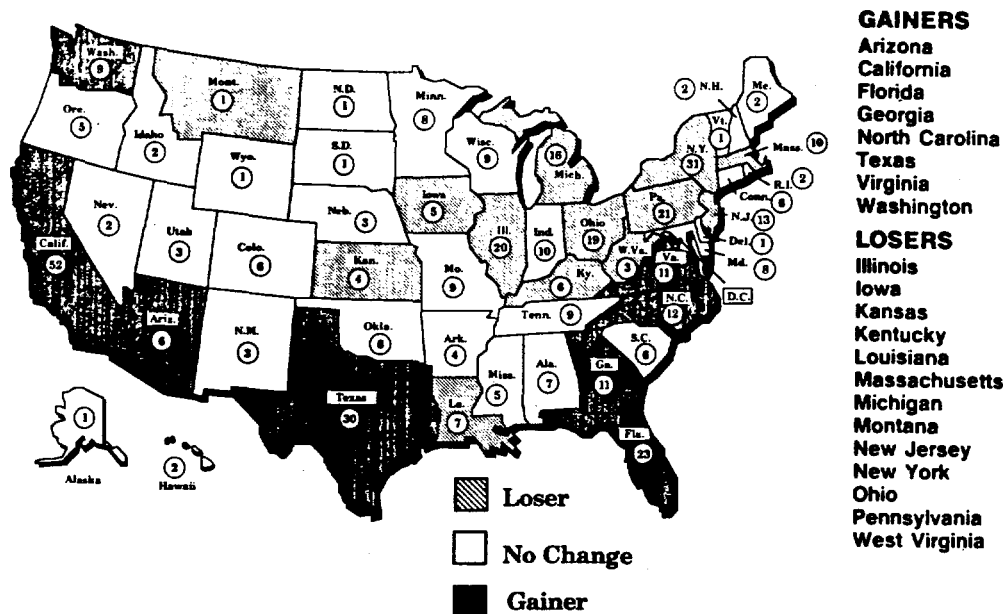
**Senate:** Republicans-53  
Democrats-47

### **Indiana Influence**

**Senators:** Daniel R. Coats (R)  
Richard G. Lugar (R)

**Representatives:** Dan Burton (R) District 6  
Steve Buyer (R) District 5  
Lee H. Hamilton (D) District 9  
John Hostettler (R) District 8  
Andrew Jacobs Jr. (D) District 10  
David M. McIntosh (R) District 2  
John T. Myers (R) District 7  
Tim Roemer (D) District 3  
Mark E. Souder (R) District 4  
Peter J. Visclosky (D) District 1

## 1990 Reapportionment: Gainers and Losers



Note: Circled number indicates state's House seats under 1990 reapportionment.

funding for many federal aid programs. Democrats, especially those representing inner-city districts where the undercount is comparatively high, have long argued for a statistical adjustment to compensate for undercounting. Several cities with large minority populations sought but failed to win adjustment of the 1980 census count.

Given the disappointing response to the census questionnaire and other problems encountered in conducting the 1990 census, many observers estimated that the undercount would be higher than the 1980 undercount. But the controversy over the 1990 count began even before the census was taken, when the Commerce Department, the parent agency to the Census Bureau, announced in 1987 that it would not statistically adjust the 1990 data. That fueled charges that the Republican administration was undercounting a Democratic constituency. New York City, along with other cities, states, and civil rights organizations, quickly brought a lawsuit to force the Census Bureau to make a statistical adjustment to account for people who were missed. But in April 1993 a federal judge in New York upheld the Commerce Department's decision not to adjust the head count. (*Census count, box, page 15*)

## REDISTRICTING: DRAWING THE LINES

Although the Constitution contained provisions for the apportionment of U.S. House seats among the states, it was silent about how the members should be elected. From the beginning

most states divided their territory into geographic districts, permitting only one member of Congress to be elected from each district.

But some states allowed would-be House members to run at large, with voters able to cast as many votes as there were seats to be filled. Still other states created what were known as multimember districts, in which a single geographic unit would elect two or more members of the House. At various times, some states used combinations of these methods. For example, a state might elect 10 representatives from 10 individual districts and two at large.

In the first few elections to the House, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Georgia elected their representatives at large, as did Rhode Island and Delaware, the two states with only a single representative. Districts were used in Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina. In Connecticut a preliminary election was held to nominate three times as many people as the number of representatives to be chosen at large in the subsequent election. In 1840 22 of the 31 states elected their representatives by districts. New Hampshire, New Jersey, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Missouri, with a combined representation of 33 House seats, elected their representatives at large. Three states, Arkansas, Delaware, and Florida, had only one representative each.

Those states that used congressional districts quickly developed what came to be known as the gerrymander. The term refers to the practice of drawing district lines so as to maximize the advantage of a political party or interest group. The name originated from a salamander-shaped congressional district created by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1812 when Elbridge Gerry was governor

## 2nd District

*East Central — Muncie; Anderson; Columbus*

Although manufacturing is a major factor in the medium-size cities across east-central Indiana, the 2nd's Democratic vote is outweighed by a GOP tradition in presidential elections. George Bush won easily here in 1988, and in 1992 he outdistanced Bill Clinton by almost 20,000 votes districtwide.

Yet a series of industrial recessions and the financial uncertainties of family farmers have made the district's mainly conservative electorate more receptive to Democrats at other levels. Democratic Gov. Evan Bayh swept the district in his 1992 re-election victory. The incumbent House Democrat, first elected in 1974, won comfortably in 1992.

Unemployment throughout the 2nd is well below the near-depression levels of the early 1980s, when local auto-related industries laid off thousands. However, the long-term downscaling of the blue-collar work force has taken its toll: 1990 population in Delaware County (Muncie) was down more than 7 percent from 1980, and Madison County (Anderson) was down nearly that much. Rural areas such as Randolph and Henry counties also saw their economies and populations slip.

In the 1920s, Muncie was the model for *Middletown*, a study of small-town American life. Today, with about 71,000 residents, it is the largest city in the 2nd. Muncie's biggest private employer

is Borg-Warner Automotive, which makes transmissions. The city's economy also benefits from Ball State University, which has 20,300 students and employs more than 6,100 people, and from the Ball Corp. It was founded and has its headquarters in Muncie, although most of its glass canning jars are made elsewhere.

Anderson's economy is heavily reliant on auto components manufacturing; the city is still trying to recover from layoffs and downsizing in that sector during the 1980s. Its largest employers are affiliates of General Motors: The Delco Remy division makes car ignition systems and electrical components; Inland Fisher Guide makes lighting equipment and bumpers. Officials in both Anderson and Muncie are working to use their locations on the White River for economic development and recreational purposes.

Although Columbus (Bartholomew County) has a strong industrial base—it is home to the Cummins Engine Co. and Arvin Industries—many of the voters are conservative: Bush took Bartholomew with 48 percent of the vote in 1992. Columbus boasts an array of modern buildings designed by leading architects; a local foundation helped fund the designs. Richmond (Wayne County), which Quakers founded in the 19th century, has an opera company.

The land outside the cities is rural and heavily farmed. Soybeans, oats and wheat are major crops in the northern part of the 2nd.

### Election Returns

	2nd District	Democrat	Republican
1992	President*	81,915 (35.1%)	101,341 (43.4%)
	House	130,881 (57.1%)	90,593 (39.5%)
1990	Senate†	74,530 (44.5%)	93,117 (55.5%)
1988	President	88,329 (39.4%)	135,738 (60.6%)
	Senate	67,181 (30.4%)	153,577 (69.6%)
	Governor	119,002 (53.0%)	105,410 (47.0%)
1986	Senate	66,524 (37.9%)	108,860 (62.1%)

\*Vote for Perot was 50,424 (21.6%). †Special election for the remaining two years of the term of Dan Quayle who was elected vice president in 1988. Appointee Daniel Coats held the seat 1988-1990 before winning the 1990 election.

### Demographics

Population 554,416

Percent change from 1980 0.2%

Land area 3,888 square miles

Population per square mile 143

#### Counties, 1990 population

Bartholomew (pt.)	55,490	Madison	130,669
Decatur	23,645	Randolph	27,148
Delaware	119,659	Rush	18,129
Henry (pt.)	44,126	Shelby	40,307
Jay (pt.)	18,177	Wayne	71,951
Johnson (pt.)	5,115		

#### Cities, 1990 population (10,000 or more)

Anderson	59,459	New Castle	17,753
Columbus (pt.)	31,635	Richmond	38,705
Muncie	71,035	Shelbyville	15,336

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Every state is assigned Representatives to the House of Representatives according to its population. Every ten years, a national census, or population count, takes place throughout the nation. The first census was taken in 1790 and the latest in 1990. Once the population of each state is determined by the census, the number of Representatives to which each state is entitled to is set, based on the population. This process is called apportionment. Thus, every ten years, after the census is taken, Congress fulfills its constitutional responsibility to determine how the seats in the House are to be divided. However, it is actually the Census Bureau that figures out how many Representatives each state is entitled to. States whose population decreases or increases less rapidly than others may lose Representatives, while states whose population grows at a rapid rate may be entitled to more Representatives.

Over the years, as the population and size of the nation grew, the membership of the House of Representatives increased. In 1790, the House had 65 members. By 1810, the number had more than doubled to 186. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, more and more Representatives swelled the House ranks. In 1912, the number of Representatives reached 435. Many Americans became concerned over the increasing size of the House. They feared that adding more and more members eventually would make the House so large that it would not be able to carry out its work. Consequently, in 1929 a law was passed stabilizing the membership of the House at 435 Representatives.

Each state sets up congressional districts—one district for each Representative. Representatives are elected from congressional districts. If a state like Wyoming is entitled to only one representative, then it has only one congressional district. California, by contrast, has 45 congressional districts and 45 Representatives. The state legislature draws the boundary lines for congressional election districts and decides how large these districts will be. The process of setting up new district lines after a census is known as redistricting.

Over the years, however, some state legislatures have abused the redistricting power. They have done so in two ways. First, they created congressional districts of very unequal population. During the early 1960's, for example, some districts in Michigan, near Detroit, had over 600,000 people, while other Michigan districts had fewer than 200,000 people. During the same period, there were 21 states in which the largest district had twice the population of the smaller district. In effect, this meant that in these states a person's vote in the largest congressional districts had only half the value of a person's vote in the smaller districts.

In a series of decisions during the 1960's, the Supreme Court ended these practices. In the landmark case of Baker v. Carr (1962), the court held that federal courts could decide conflicts over the drawing of district boundaries by state legislatures. Two years later, in Wesberry v. Sanders (1964),

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Making Congressional Districts

All congressional districts must include about the same number of people.

Suppose the area below was a state with a population of three million, and you were asked to divide it into six districts. How many people would you need to include in each district? \_\_\_\_\_

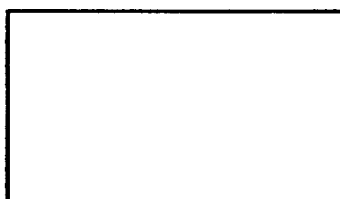
The numbers on the map stand for the number of people living in each rectangular area. Outline groups of connecting rectangles to create six equal sized districts.

50,000	100,000	50,000	50,000
10,000	100,000	500,000	100,000
100,000	500,000	50,000	100,000
50,000	90,000	10,000	50,000
100,000	500,000	100,000	100,000
50,000	50,000	90,000	100,000

Lightly color each district differently. Use the rectangles below to make a map key. To do this, color the rectangles to match the districts on the map.



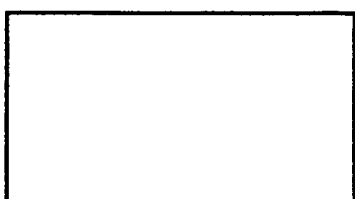
First District



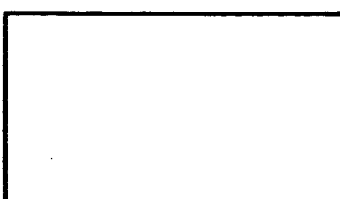
Second District



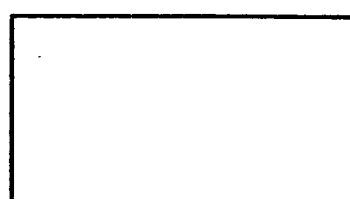
Third District



Fourth District



Fifth District



Sixth District

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Making Congressional Districts

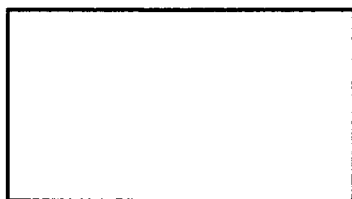
All congressional districts must include about the same number of people.

Suppose the area below was a state with a population of three million, and you were asked to divide it into six districts. How many people would you need to include in each district? 500,000

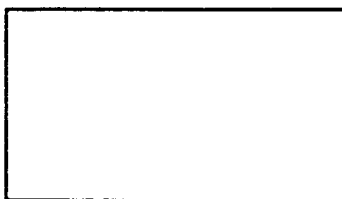
The numbers on the map stand for the number of people living in each rectangular area. Outline groups of connecting rectangles to create six equal sized districts.

50,000	100,000	50,000	50,000
10,000	100,000	500,000	100,000
100,000	500,000	50,000	100,000
50,000	90,000	10,000	50,000
100,000	500,000	100,000	100,000
50,000	50,000	90,000	100,000

Lightly color each district differently. Use the rectangles below to make a map key. To do this, color the rectangles to match the districts on the map.



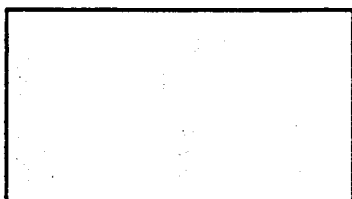
First District



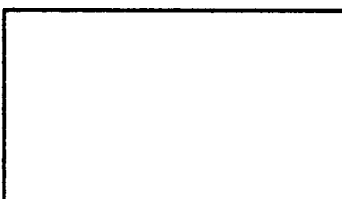
Second District



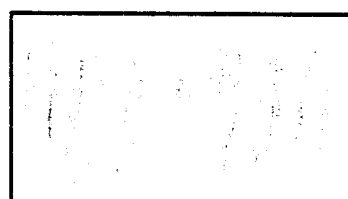
Third District



Fourth District



Fifth District



Sixth District